

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02099 231949Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 EB-08 /084 W
-----003931 240538Z /16

R 231746Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9873
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 1496
AMEMBASSY NASSAU 1502
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1735

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2099
E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: PNP TO AVOID VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

REF: A) KINGSTON A-6 OF JANUARY 14, 1978; B) KINGSTON 2098

1. LABOR MINISTER WILLIAM "VUNNIE" ISAACS CONFIRMED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT WHEN THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) MEETS ON MARCH 4-5 IN ITS "RESUMED" ANNUAL CONFERENCE, IT WILL NOT HOLD VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. RATHER, THE FOUR INCUMBENT VICE-PRESIDENTS--ISAACS, FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON, HOUSING MINISTER TONY SPAULDING AND PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTER HOWARD COOKE--WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE PARTY HOLDS ITS NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, 1978. (SEE REFTEL B).

2. ISAACS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE IS, HIMSELF, SORRY THAT THE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN ABORTED. HE SAID THAT THE RADICALS COULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SEVERE DRUBBING; AND NOW THEY ARE SPARED THAT EMBARRASSMENT. THE MINISTER ADDED (APPARENTLY VOICING HIS OWN HOPE) THAT HAD THEY
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BEEN TROUNCED ONCE AGAIN, SOME "RADICALS" MIGHT EVEN HAVE LEFT THE PNP. THE LABOR MINISTER SAID THAT HE FEARED THAT THE DECISION TO ABANDON THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS NOW OFFERS THE "RADICALS" FURTHER TIME TO WORK TO RE-COUP THE LOSSES THEY SUSTAINED LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN THE "MODERATES" COALESCED AND GAVE THE "RADICALS" A THOROUGH BEATING. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN

THAT THEY MIGHT USE THE TIME TO ADVANTAGE.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VICE PRESIDENT, RULING PARTY, ELECTIONS, PARTY MEETINGS, ELECTION CANCELLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST02099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-0663
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780223/aaaaathn.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0c649ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINGSTON A-6, 78 KINGSTON 2098
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3508615
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNP TO AVOID VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, JM, PNP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c649ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014